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SENATOR BOHLKE: They could or some schools could almost become magnets. They could pool their money and one school could be a magnet for drama, one for music, one for math and science.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Okay, thank you. I appreciate that and I'll punch my light on for further questions. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Maurstad. Senator Engel.

SENATOR ENGEL: Members of the body, I recall approximately four years ago when Senator Jan McKenzie brought this up, this subject up as far as we should be doing something for the gifted students. Something I've always believed in ever since I was on the local school board, but at that point in time we could not afford the program on our own. Now when Senator McKenzie first brought it up, it was going to be a mandate but be no funding with it. So I got up and opposed it, not because I didn't believe in the program but I did not believe in sending something down to local districts without the proper funding. As far as I'm concerned, all mandates should, if they are necessary at all, the funding should follow because I do believe, and now this isn't really discussing this amendment, I just got in town and so I missed the first portion of your debate so this is just in support of the total bill because I do believe that this segment of our student population has been the most neglected for all of these years. They have the same problems in a different end of the spectrum as those who are...have problems with the developmentally disabled as far as education is concerned. We do take care of those people. I think we have to take care of these people with all these talents because they are the future leaders of our country. And so many of them go down the wrong path because they are not challenged. I've seen that in my community, and I'm sure you've seen it in your communities and we see it across the country. In fact, occasionally we read about those people with all these talents but misdirected talents. So I really all I'm up here for right now is I totally support this bill because we are setting up a program, but we are sending the funds with it and we are not putting a burden on the local school districts and I think we're going to make our total education system much better in the state of Nebraska. Thank you.